

READ SCRIPTURE

FOR THOSE WHO REVERT MY NAME
THE SUN OF RIGHTEOUSNESS WILL RISE
WITH HEALING IN ITS WINGS. (4:2)

START OFFERING THE TITHE AGAIN.

IDOLATRY (3:10) DIVORCE

THE FAITHFUL
REMNANT

SCROLL OF
REMEMBRANCE

MALACHI

PURIFYING
FIRE

I STILL LOVE YOU. (1:2)

HOW HAVE YOU
SHOWN US LOVE?

I CHOSE JACOB'S FAMILY TO
CARRY MY COVENANT PROMISES...

... BUT NOT
ESAU'S FAMILY.

SEE
GENESIS 25-27
& GENESIS 33

JACOB & ISRAEL

ESAU & EDOM



Introducing Malachi

- No details about the author
- Written 100 years after Israelites return from the “Babylonian Exile”
- The basic message is that; despite having been hit with violence and then sent to “Time Out” for 70 years, they have not learnt their lesson
- And the lesson is – *“change your heart”*.

Looking into the Book

A number of revolving themes flow through this book which I have summarised as

1. God Loves us
2. So lets respond to his Love
3. And share his Love

1 - God Loves Us

- ① 1:2 God starts this message with what he is all about, Loving Humanity and especially these people
- ② And they say How?
- ③ Sometime we ask the same question (Often because in the midst of our struggles we are not *feeling* it)
- ④ So God reminds them of their history – something which we also can find helpful

Jacob I have loved..

- ⦿ Note – the word hate – similar to Gen 29:31 and Luke 14:26 which is comparative
- ⦿ Jacob was the second born, a scoundrel, cheat, manipulator, supplanter and yet, God loved him
- ⦿ God was reminding them that they were his because He chose them and blessed them
- ⦿ And that God's love challenges the system of Patriarchal Partiality Privilege of the first Son

God Loves You

- No matter who you are, what you have done, whether you are in privilege or not,

GOD LOVES YOU

- Even if life is difficult at the moment, do not give up on God, remember when you first discovered this truth, and hold on to it

Remember

- ⦿ Tell the person beside you when you first experienced this
- ⦿ If it is too personal to share, that is ok, instead spend the next minute in prayer reminding yourself of the grace you had on that day

2- Not Loving God back

In 1:6 God replies with sadness that they have not returned the love he has showered on them...

- ⦿ They have not offered their best to him (1:7-14)
- ⦿ They have been unfaithful to God and their wives (2:14-16)
- ⦿ They have been partial to the unjust (2:17,3:5)
- ⦿ They have withheld their *tithes* (3:6-12)
- ⦿ And said it is futile to serve God (3:14-15)

Wanting all the benefits but..

Mal 1:12 – *You profane the table and complain about the food on it*

- ⦿ Its like being upset about someone not talking to you but never listening to them
- ⦿ Its like complaining about the problems in the health system while trying to avoid paying tax
- ⦿ Its like complaining about what the Church does not do but wont give or get involved

So let's respond to Gods Love

- God calls us to respond to his love with love
- Is the Lord asking you something?
- Take a moment to consider this question by yourself or with someone you trust

3 - Sharing his Love

- ⦿ Introducing the Levites – Malachi 2:5,6
- ⦿ A tribe especially set apart for God. They were not given a parcel of land but had an inheritance in the midst of the tribes and some were priests
- ⦿ Their job: to be on hand to witness to God's love, share His blessing and remind the people of his word
- ⦿ A good picture of our role as Christians, not hiding away but rubbing shoulders with the world
- ⦿ 3:3 – The promise of Gods' blessing on those that share the love of God - purified like Gold

Who can we share the Love with

- ① Pray for someone you rub shoulders with the person beside you,
- ① Ask God to help you be like a Levite with the love of God in what you say and what you do (2:7)

Final thoughts point 1 revisited

Malachi Chapter 4

- ⦿ The hope, God, is coming (i.e. Christ)
- ⦿ When he comes he will turn the hearts of Fathers back to Children and the children will respond
- ⦿ No more partiality, no more injustice but a community based on love
- ⦿ It is the fitting summary of Malachi's message

Game On

- ⦿ A Parenting Course Just for Dads
- ⦿ In this course I have seen fathers change as they turn their hearts to their kids and this is seen in them listening to them.

A Summary

- ⦿ God's heart is towards you (He Loves you)
 - No matter how it feels
- ⦿ So let us turn our hearts towards God
 - Listen to him, and respond through how we live
- ⦿ And let us pass His love and this hope on
 - At least to one other person